

~~CRANKY~~  
A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
December 24, 2017

Church

A Very Cranky Christmas • Message 4

PRAY • THE SEASON IS ALMOST OVER!! • REVIEW • CHAOS, HEARTACHE, CONFLICT → RELIGION  
CHREASTERS?

Christmas means **CHURCH (CHRIST MASS)**

YET, SOCIETY WORKS OVERTIME TO REMOVE JESUS FROM CHRISTMAS • RELIGIOUS STUFF!

## What's Wrong With Church?

FOUR REASONS PEOPLE DON'T LIKE CHURCH

\* I didn't connect with the **PEOPLE** there.

\* I didn't connect with the **EXPERIENCE**.

\* Everyone there seemed **FAKE**.

\* When I'm there, I feel **FAKE**.

MAYBE YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO FEELS THAT WAY ABOUT CHURCH • MAYBE YOU DO!  
THE FIRST THREE CAN BE SOLVED THE SAME WAY: DIFFERENT CHURCH, BUT EVENTUALLY → 4  
BUT THE CHRISTMAS STORY OFFERS THE SOLUTION, BY TURNING CHURCH UPSIDE DOWN!

## The ChristMass Backstory

WE ALL KNOW ABOUT RELIGION: PERFECTION • LEVITICUS 19:1-2 • SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM  
THOSE LAMBS NEEDED SHEPHERDS • IRONY OF OUTSIDER SHEPHERDS • UNCLEAN THIEVES!

## The Christmas Irony (Luke 2:8-20 p. 716)

THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THE SHEPHERDS • THE IRONY OF ANGELS COMING TO THEM!  
~~ THE BABY IN STRIPS OF CLOTH IN A MANGER → LIKE A PERFECT LITTLE LAMB ~~

They were not allowed in the **TEMPLE**,  
but they were welcomed to the **MANGER**.

SHEPHERDS AT A MANGER! HOW PERFECT!

## The Jesus Irony (Luke 8:42-48 p. 723)

TEASE HER UNCLEANNESS • NOT ONLY THAT, SHE WAS A WOMAN • NOT ALLOWED IN THE TEMPLE

She was not allowed in the **TEMPLE**,  
but she **TOUCHED** the **SAVIOR**.

GOD DECLARED THE TEMPLE IRRELEVANT • GOD COMES TO US! • JOHN 1:14

## Take it Home

SO WHY CHURCH? • NOT TO GET TO GOD / HE CAME TO US / HE IN US DRAWS US TO EACH OTHER

\* This church cannot be a temple. It must be a **MANGER**.

\* If you aren't home in **TEMPLE**, find a **HOME** with us!  
BECAUSE JESUS CAME... AND HE'S COMING AGAIN... ISAIAH 57:15-19

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